

THE SANCTUARY'S MERITO PROGRAM

The sanctuary's "MERITO Program" was developed jointly with a variety of stakeholders and partners and includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Developing and implementing community-based bilingual education and outreach programs
- Developing and implementing site-based bilingual outreach programs
- Developing and implementing teacher training and internship programs
- Developing a comprehensive communications plan to effectively engage Spanish and other media groups, including print, radio, TV, and internet in delivering bilingual messages related to marine and coastal watershed protection
- Working with partners to develop a regional planning approach to address multicultural outreach
- Integrating multicultural elements to existing MBNMS programs and materials
- Expanding the MERITO program into other national marine sanctuaries

MERITO COMMUNITY QUOTE

"Me sirve esta experiencia para ir y decirles a otros de cómo conservar todo esto natural, la tierra, el océano todo lo que nos dio, para dejarles algo a nuestros hijos, nuestro futuro. Nosotros estamos gastando a todo y necesitamos aprender mas de jente como ustedes que estan enseñando la importancia de toda esta conservación."

(MERITO participant)

"This experience inspires me to go home and teach others how to conserve our natural places, the earth, the ocean, all that we are given, to leave something for our children, our future. We are exhausting everything and we need to learn more from people like you who are teaching the importance of protection"

(MERITO participant)



Watershed Academy students share their knowledge with parents and peers.

MBNMS